

LIMEHURST
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's
Report,
1909.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE :
GREEN & ANDREW, PRINTERS, MINERVA WORKS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
LIMEHURST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Strathdene,
Taunton Road,
Ashton-under-Lyne,
March, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1909, and an epitome of the work performed by the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. H. H. Turner).

BOUNDARIES.—The District lies mainly between the County Borough of Oldham on the north, the Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne on the south, the Borough of Mossley on the east, and the Urban Districts of Failsworth and Droylsden on the west. In addition there is a portion altogether detached, and surrounded by the Springhead and Lees Urban Districts and the County Borough of Oldham, viz: the Parish of Crossbank. The extent of the District being shown in that it is five miles across (crowflight) from N.E. to S.W.

AREA AND POPULATION.—The Parishes comprising the District are as follow :—

	Acres	Population (Census 1901)
Alt	1110	1037
Bardsley	893	2194
Cross Bank (detached)	82	1077
Hartshead	1011	745
Little Moss	709	595
Waterloo	342	3858
Woodhouses	622	832
Totals	4769	10338

The increase in population from 1891 to 1901 was 1318 persons.

With the exception of the Parishes of Bardsley, Cross Bank, and Waterloo, the District is entirely Rural in character and varies in height above Ordnance datum from 215·00 to 950·00 feet. The District lies upon the grit and coal formation, interspersed with clay and moss overlying certain portions.

POPULATION, 1891 Census	9020
„ 1901 „	10338
„ middle 1909 (estimated)	10800

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000 of population
March Quarter ..	38	39	77	28·52
June „ ..	40	36	76	28·15
September „ ..	26	32	58	21·48
December „ ..	40	25	65	24·07
Totals	144	132	276	26·29

The total number of Births registered during the twelve months being 276. Males, 144. Females, 132. The average rate per 1000 being 26·29.

Birth Rate for the last six years :—

1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
25·14	26·35	25·70	22·97	26·30	26·29

DEATHS	Males	Females	Total	Rate per 1000 of population
March Quarter ..	23	33	56	20·74
June „ ..	15	18	33	12·22
September „ ..	8	14	22	8·14
December „ ..	16	18	34	11·66
Totals	62	83	145	13·42

The total number of Deaths registered during the year was 145. Males, 62. Females, 83. The rate per 1000 being 13·42.

Death Rate for the last six years :—

1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
14·77	13·45	12·52	13·30	16·11	13·42

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The proportion of deaths of children under one year, per 1000 births registered, is equal to 101·45. Fifteen deaths being of children under one month of age, and thirteen deaths of children between one month and twelve months of age. The particulars of causes of death being shown in Table V. appended.

Registered Deaths of children under one year, 28.
Males, 15. Females, 13; rate per 1000, 2·59.

Registered Deaths of children under five years of age, 36,
Males, 21. Females, 14; rate per 1000, 3·24.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—Deaths, 6. Rate, 0·55 per 1000

Smallpox	0
Scarlet Fever	0
Enteric Fever	3
Membranous Croup and Diphtheria	0
Measles	1
Whooping Cough	2
Diarrhœa	0
	<hr/>
	6

The last three diseases are not notifiable in this District, and, although Measles have been prevalent, precautions have been taken and only one death has resulted.

PHTHISIS.—15 Deaths. Rate per 1000, 1·38.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES (comprising Bronchitis and Pneumonia).—18 Deaths. Rate per 1000, 1·5

Deaths were registered in each Parish forming the District as follows:—

Alt, 11, Bardsley, 23, Cross Bank, 11, Hartshead, 3, Little Moss, 10, Waterloo, 75, Bardsley, 12, Total 145.

The deaths from Zymotic Diseases occurred in the several Parishes as follows:—Enteric Fever: Waterloo 1, Bardsley 1, Little Moss 1, Total 3. Measles: Bardsley 1, Total 1. Whooping Cough: Waterloo 2, Total 2.

The deaths from Phthisis occurred in the Parishes as follows:—Bardsley 3, Cross Bank 2, Waterloo 8, Woodhouses, 2.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Smallpox	0
Scarlet Fever.....	31
Membranous Croup and Diphtheria ..	4
Erysipelas	0
Enteric Fever	9
Puerperal Fever	1
Total.....	45

These were notified from the several parishes as follows :

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria and Membranous Group		Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	
Alt.....	4	..	0	..	0	0
Bardsley	3	..	0	..	2	0
Cross Bank	5	..	0	..	0	0
Hartshead	1	..	0	..	1	0
Little Moss.....	6	..	0	..	4	0
Waterloo	11	..	4	..	2	1
Woodhouses	1	..	0	..	0	0
Total	31		4		9	1

SMALLPOX, CHOLERA, ERYSIPELAS, TYPHUS, TYPHOID, RELAPSING and CONTINUED FEVERS.—No cases have been reported during the year.

SCARLET FEVER.—Of the 31 cases five occurred during the month of January, three in February, two in March, two in April, two in May, three in July, one in August, one in September, four in October, three in November, and five in December. No deaths occurred from this Disease. The cases being very mild in character. One of the cases occurred at a farmhouse, and every precaution was taken to prevent any spread of the disease. The supply of milk from the farm was stopped, and proceedings were taken under the Dairies and Cowsheds Act before the magistrates against the tenant, but owing to insufficient evidence the case was dismissed.

DIPHTHERIA, &c.—Four cases were notified in January, all in one house. The source of these cases was traced to an adjoining district, one of the patients acting as a temporary servant in an infected house. The greatest precautions in isolating those infected at home were taken, and I am glad to state no further outbreak has occurred.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Nine cases. Two cases occurred in the Parish of Bardsley, one in the Parish of Hartshead, four in the Parish of Little Moss, and two in the Parish of Waterloo. One case in Bardsley, one in Little Moss, and one in Waterloo ended fatally.

In all cases of notifiable infectious diseases the houses, bedding, &c., were fumigated and disinfected with Sulphur or Formalin. Special Sanitary Cans for the alvine discharges being provided in all cases of Enteric Fever, the contents of the cans being afterwards thoroughly disinfected with Izal and buried.

MEASLES.—In March a rather severe epidemic of Measles of a mild type occurred in the Parish of Waterloo, and on the 5th of that month the Council School was closed for a period of five weeks, and on the 23rd of the same month the Waterloo Branch of the Christ Church Schools was also closed for five weeks. The floors, walls, &c., of the schools were thoroughly disinfected, and no recurrence of the epidemic has taken place. Special reports of the closures were sent to the County Council Medical Officer of Health and to the Local Government Board.

INDUSTRIES.—The principal industry of the district is that of Cotton Spinning.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—There are in the district seven cotton mills, two print and bleach works, three iron and roller works, one rope walk, one medicated sweet works, one colliery, one wheelwright's shop, and one machine shop. All these factories and workshops have been periodically visited by myself and the Sanitary Inspector, and every attention has been given to the sanitary arrangements, whitewashing of rooms, &c. Means of escape in case of fire are provided in all the mills and works where necessary, and all requirements within the meaning of the Factory and Workshops Acts, 1901, &c., have been duly insisted upon. No home workers are registered in the district.

SMOKE NUISANCES.—Thirty-three observations have been taken of the emission of smoke from mill and other works chimneys, and the limit as allowed by the District Council of one minute of black smoke per boiler per half-hour, has seldom been exceeded. Warnings were sent on three occasions and proceedings taken before the magistrates on one, when an order to abate within six months was obtained.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—The house accommodation is fairly adequate, being mainly of the cottage or artisan class, with a sufficiency of air space surrounding the same; and only a few of the old streets are less than twelve yards wide. Several dilapidated houses have been closed, and others at the end of the year were under the consideration of your Council. That such steps as may be found desirable to alter or amend the condition of the properties concerned, be taken as early as possible is very necessary.

Four cases of overcrowding were found during the year; in three cases the trouble was obviated by notices, whilst in the other proceedings were instituted, but withdrawn on payment of costs, the tenant removing to a larger house. The number of persons to each house averages 4·7.

PUBLIC TIPS have been provided in the Parishes of Woodhouses, Little Moss and Waterloo, and I respectfully submit to the Council that the present method of emptying ashpits by irresponsible persons during the day time is very unsatisfactory, and this question should engage your early and earnest consideration.

LIGHTING ACT.—This Act has been put in force by the Parish Councils of Bardsley, Cross Bank, Little Moss, and Waterloo.

WATER SUPPLY.—The larger portion of the district is supplied from the Reservoirs of Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield Joint Water Board, and the Parish of Cross Bank is supplied from the Oldham Corporation Reservoirs. The higher or upland portions of the Parishes of Alt and Hartshead being dependent upon Springs and Wells, the danger of pollution to these being remote.

DRAINAGE.—There are three Sewage Works for the district, being severally for the Parishes of Bardsley, Cross Bank, and Waterloo. The works for Cross Bank are, however, outside the Council's District, being situated within the Lees Urban District. As far as practicable all properties in the three parishes are connected to the sewers. Plans are being prepared for additions to the three Sewage Works, in order that the same may comply with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Sewage Works, and to satisfy the requirements of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are four Slaughter Houses, and these are frequently inspected and surprise visits are made by myself and the Sanitary Inspector. All were found clean, well drained, whitewashed, and with good water supplies. During the year two suspected carcasses were inspected. In one case the carcass was destroyed, being found to have suffered from pluro pneumonia; and in the other the meat was fit for human food.

There are no Underground Bakehouses, Cellar Dwellings or Offensive Trades in the district.

FARMS, COWSHEDS, &c.—Since my last report alterations and additions to eight farms in the district have been made, and these form a great improvement in the condition of the farms and for the milk supply of this and surrounding districts. I would, however, suggest your further endeavours in improving the condition of several of the other farms at an early date.

Appended you will find an abstract of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector during the year, and of the Tables I. to V.

G. F. BOWMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE WORK DONE
during the twelve months ended December 31st,
1909, as taken from the Surveyor's and
Inspector's Report Book.

Number of cases entered in the Report Books.....	237
Do. notices served	199
Do. cases attended to without notices	39
Do. drains opened and cleansed	101
Dangerous coal shafts	1
Ashpits and closets repaired and rebuilt	23
Houses condemned.....	8
Do. pulled down	3
Complaints from H.M. Factory Inspector	1
Overcrowding (one summons withdrawn).....	4
Schools closed	2
Defective waste pipes	4
Dirty yards, &c.	9
Bedding destroyed	2
Samples of water taken (one analysed)	2
Carcases inspected (one destroyed).....	2
Tips cleaned.....	4
Smoke observations (one summons)	33
Shop registered for sale of milk	1
Foul ditches cleaned	1
Complaints received	2
Farms inspected	40

Plans approved for the following:—

Houses, 18; alterations and additions, 8; institutes, 1; outbuildings, 9; motor house, &c., 1; bakehouse, 1; additions to works, &c., 4; shippens and stables, 6; pigstyes, 2; fire escape to mill, 1.

HAROLD H. TURNER,

Surveyor and Inspector.

March. 1910.

TABLE I.
BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*
1899	9420	301	32.16	50	166	194	20.59
1900	9420	311	33.01	57	183	210	22.29
1901	10338	275	26.60	40	166	165	16.31
1902	10338	317	30.43	38	119	147	14.21
1903	10338	277	26.78	47	169	160	15.47
1904	10700	269	25.14	38	141	158	14.77
1905	10700	282	26.35	32	112	144	13.45
1906	10700	275	25.70	34	123	134	12.52
1907	10750	247	22.97	33	133	143	13.30
1908	10800	284	26.30	38	133	174	16.11
Averages for Years 1899-1908	10350	283	27.64	40	144.5	163	15.9
1909	10800	276	26.29	28	101.45	145	13.42

* Rates calculated per 1000 of Estimated Population.

Area of District in Acres..... 4,769. Total Population at All Ages..... 10,338 } At Census
Number of Inhabited Houses.. 2,200. Average No. of Persons per House.. 4.7 } of 1901.

TABLE II.
BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1899	9420	301	194	50
1900	9420	311	210	57
1901	10338	275	165	40
1902	10338	317	147	38
1903	10338	277	160	47
1904	10700	269	158	38
1905	10700	282	144	32
1906	10700	275	134	34
1907	10750	247	143	33
1908	10800	284	174	38
Averages of Years 1899 to 1908	(.. 10350)	(283)	(163)	(40)
1909	10800	276	145	28

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1909.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Cases notified in whole district							Total cases notified in each locality							
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	Alt	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria (including	4	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Membranous Group)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	31	0	11	15	3	2	0	4	3	5	1	6	11	1	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhus Fever	9	0	2	2	2	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Relapsing Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Continued Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.....	45	0	13	17	7	8	0	4	5	5	2	10	18	1	1

Isolation Hospital :--Smallpox, Hartshead.

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	
Smallpox	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Measles	1 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Scarlet Fever	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Whooping Cough	2 ..	2 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Croup	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Fever {	Typhus.....	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
	Enteric.....	3 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0 ..	1 ..	1	
	Other continued	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Epidemic Influenza ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Cholera	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Plague.....	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Diarrhœa	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Enteritis.....	2 ..	1 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Gastritis	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0	
Puerperal Fever	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0	
Erysipelas	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	15 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	2 ..	13 ..	0	
Other Tubercular Diseases	1 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	7 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	5 ..	2	
Bronchitis	9 ..	1 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	4 ..	3	
Pneumonia.....	14 ..	2 ..	2 ..	0 ..	1 ..	5 ..	4	
Pleurisy	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0	
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	2 ..	0 ..	1 ..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver } ..	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1	
Premature Birth	9 ..	9 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Diseases & Accidents of Parturition	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0	
Heart Diseases	19 ..	1 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0 ..	12 ..	5	
Accidents	9 ..	1 ..	0 ..	3 ..	0 ..	5 ..	0	
Suicides	1 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	0 ..	1 ..	0	
All other causes.....	47 ..	10 ..	0 ..	3 ..	2 ..	13 ..	19	
All causes.....	145 ..	28 ..	7 ..	8 ..	6 ..	62 ..	34	

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One year
Common Infectious Diseases	Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Chicken-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Scarlet Fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Diphtheria; Croup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
	Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Diarrhea, all forms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Wasting Diseases	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Catarrh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Premature Birth	6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
	Congenital Defects	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Tuberculous Diseases	Injury at Birth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Want of Breast-milk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
	Tuberculous Meningitis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Causes	Tuberculosis Peritonitis ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Syphilis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Causes	Rickets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Convulsions	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Laryngitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pneumonia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Suffocation, overlying	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
	Other Causes	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Totals	8	5	1	1	15	1	2	0	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	1	28

Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

INSPECTION,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories7	30	0	0
Workshops.....12	28	0	0
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	0	0	0
Total.....	58	0	0

Prosecutions for Smoke Nuisance..... 1

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.

	NUMBER
Medlock Vale Print Works.....	1
Thornlea Brook Bleach and Dye Works.....	1
Park Bridge Iron Works.....	1
A. Lees & Sons, Roller Works.....	1
A. S. Dobb & Sons, do.....	1
Kerfoot & Co., Sweets Works.....	1
J. W. Holland, Wheelwright's Shop.....	1
J. Taylor, Rope Walk.....	1
C. Barlow, Tailor.....	1
Chamber Colliery, Bardsley Pit.....	1
Breweries.....	2

Total number of workshops on Register.. 12

OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS	NUMBER
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133).....	0
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) :—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	1
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	0
Other	0
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	0
In use at the end of the year.....	0